

### Quick Links

[Tour Overview \(3 min.\)](#)

[Virtual Tour \(7 min.\)](#)

[Lessons and Resources](#)

[Learning Center Brochure](#)

[Hall of Justice Brochure](#)

### Play Online!



[courts.mi.gov/dayincourt](https://courts.mi.gov/dayincourt)

Compatible with desktop computers, including modern Chromebooks. For best results, use the latest Chrome, Edge, or Firefox browsers.

### Calendar

#### September

17 Constitution Day  
20 [MSC Public Hearing](#)

#### October

9–10 [MSC Oral Arguments](#)

#### November

20 [MSC Oral Arguments](#)  
26 [Michigan Adoption Day](#)

### School Tours, 2018–2019

Have you scheduled your tours for the new school year? Popular days and times at the [Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center](#) are still available, but they are going fast.

Free, guided tours for groups (up to 48) may be reserved for Mondays–Fridays, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., except court holidays.

During a school tour many [Grade Level Content Expectations](#) can be fulfilled for all grade levels. Themes include:

- Michigan Studies
- Government and Civics
- Constitution

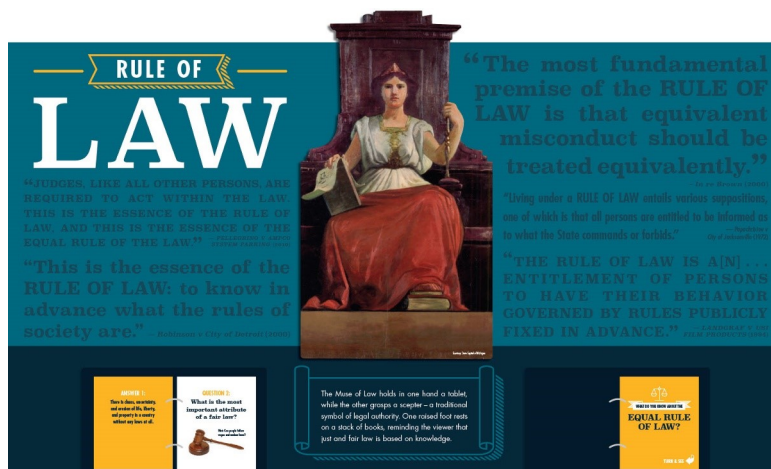
To see the Michigan Supreme Court courtroom during your visit, you must request this specifically when making a tour reservation. Additional time is required. Because of the Court's schedule, courtroom visits cannot be guaranteed. Ask staff for details when scheduling.

**Call 517-373-7171 today to make your reservations!**

**NEW**

### Rule of Law Exhibit

Upcoming school tours will enjoy a new exhibit about the Rule of Law. See the next page for more about this fundamental principle and the Constitution – just in time for Constitution Day, September 17!



## Constitution Day

On September 17, 1787, delegates signed the U.S. Constitution. To commemorate this historical event, federal law requires schools that receive federal funding and all federal agencies to hold programs about the Constitution on or near that date.

Constitution Day [resources](#).

## The Constitution and the Rule of Law

The United States was founded on the concept of the Rule of Law. This principle means that everyone – including the government – is accountable under just laws that are enacted and enforced equally and that justice is delivered by neutral officials (judges).

According to [Article IV](#) of the U.S. Constitution, judges in every state are bound to uphold the nation's founding document as the “supreme law of the land.” Equal treatment is embodied in the [Fifth Amendment](#) guarantee of due process of law, and the [Fourteenth Amendment](#), which entitles every citizen to “equal protection under the laws.”

In discussing the Rule of Law, the [U.S. Courts website](#) concludes: “Equality before the law is such an essential part of the American system of government that, when a majority, whether acting intentionally or unintentionally, infringes upon the rights of a minority, the Court may see fit to hear both sides of the controversy in court.”

### More about the Rule of Law



Image Courtesy State Capitol of Michigan

**American Bar Association** – [Dialogue on the Rule of Law PDF](#) (MS and above)

**U.S. Courts** – [Rule of Law Educational Resources](#) (HS and above)

**Utah Education Network** – [Rules and Laws Lesson Plan](#) (Elementary)

**World Justice Project** – [Rule of Law Index](#) analyzes factors in countries world-wide

## What Do You Know about the Rule of Law?

- 1) What is the most important attribute of a fair law?

*Hint:* Can people follow vague and unclear laws?

- 2) What is the highest lawful authority in the United States?

*Hint:* It is not government leaders or public officials.

- 3) What is the role of a judge?

*Hint:* It is not to decide if the laws are good or bad, or what the laws ought to be.

- 4) What requires the RULE OF LAW to be EQUAL?

*Hint:* What if your teacher treated you differently than your classmates sitting next to you?

### These and other questions are posed in the new Rule of Law exhibit.

- 1) Laws must be clear so that each of us can reasonably understand our rights and responsibilities.
- 2) The highest lawful authority is the United States Constitution, which was ratified in the name of “we the people.”
- 3) A judge only identifies what the law created by the Legislature reasonably means, and whether it is in accord with the United States Constitution.
- 4) The United States Constitution, as well as fundamental principles of fairness, requires that the RULE OF LAW be EQUAL for all persons.

ANSWERS